

# Provenience of an Engraved Slate Pendant

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In the course of compiling a register of the Charles Whittlesey papers at the Western Reserve Historical Society (Murphy 1976), I discovered a brief manuscript note describing and illustrating an engraved slate pendant (Fig. 1). The note, in Whittlesey's handwriting, is undated but probably was written between 1876, when Whittlesey compiled material for the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, and 1886, the year of his death.

This same engraved pendant has been illustrated previously by Chadwick (1969), who gives only "Ohio—county unknown" for the provenience. Since some doubt has been cast upon Whittlesey's accuracy in surveying and note-taking, (Committee on the Warren County Serpent Mound 1951; McPerson 1952), it is interesting to observe that this sketch agrees very closely with that made by Chadwick.

Copies of Whittlesey's sketches accompany this note. His brief text, except for the first word, which remains illegible, follows:

(?) projection of a pendant of black polished slate. Cabinet of L. Lippelman, Fremont, Ohio. Surface find in Sandusky Co. O. Length 5 inches. Breadth at middle 1.3 inches. Thickness 0.3 inches. Breadth at ends 1.4 and 1.60 tapering flatwise towards the ends about 1/2 the thickness at middle. Bore a a' tapering. Side B about 2/3 of the way through. Side A a little obl-que and not much taper. Chevron markings at right end of A obliterated, also at left end of B. Mere uncouth ornamentation.

Whittlesey's dismissal of the engraving as "mere uncouth ornamentation" is typical of the man who gave equally short shrift to such 19th century phenomena as the Grave Creek tablet, the "Holy Stones" of Newark, the Cincinnati tablet, and other objects frequently attributed to the "Ten Lost Tribes of Israel." He did not, however, indicate any doubt about the aboriginal origins of this particular engraving. A somewhat more searching analysis of such aboriginal "doodling" is presented by Goodman and Goodman (1972), though personally I am loath to gainsay Whittlesey's interpretation in the present instance.

Chadwick, Ensil

1969 Engraved pendants and gorgets. *Ohio Archaeologist* 19 (1): 7-9.

Committee on the Warren County Serpent Mound

1951 Preliminary report of the Committee on the Warren County Serpent Mound. *Ohio Indian Relic Collectors Society Bulletin* 26:38.

Goodman, Kenneth and Mary Goodman

1952 The emotional traits of prehistoric man. *Ohio Archaeologist* 22 (1): 28-29.

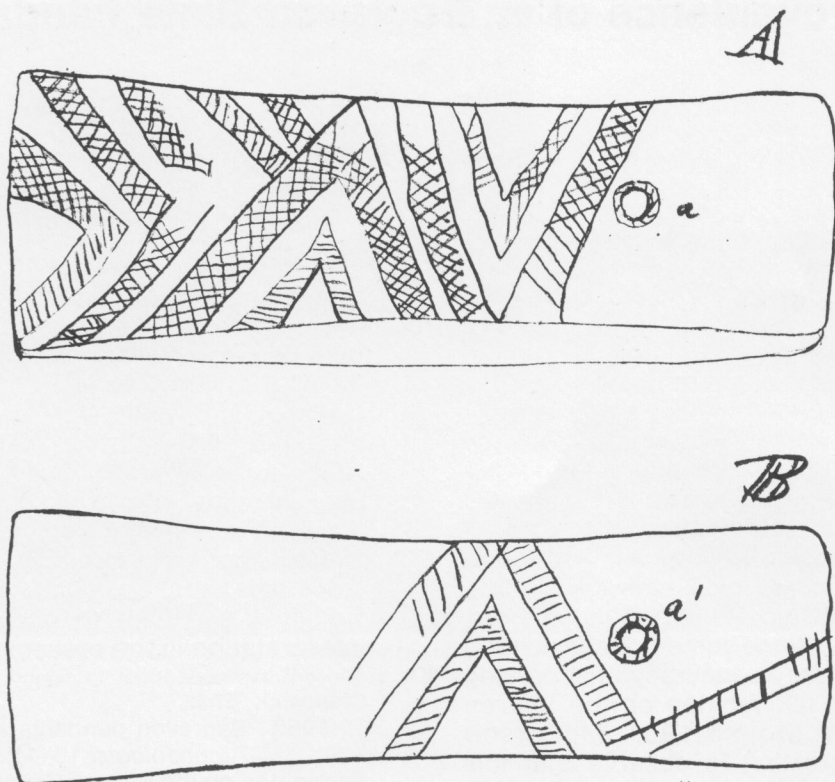
McPherson, Harry R.

1952 The Warren County serpent mound: report of the committee appointed to investigate its authenticity and present status. *Ohio Archaeologist* 2 (1): 12-17.

Murphy, James L.

1976 Charles Whittlesey (1808-1886). A register of his papers (1827-1897) in the Western Reserve Historical Society. Typescript on file at the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, 58 pp.

Martha Otto of the Ohio Historical Society is planning to salvage a mound in the Columbus area before it is destroyed by a housing development. The work will begin in mid-June and should continue through most of the summer. While she has made arrangements to have a small crew of high school students, she will also need additional volunteers. If you are interested in learning some basic archaeological field techniques and in helping to preserve a segment of our cultural resources, please contact Martha at the Ohio Historical Center, 1982 Velma Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211 (614) 466-5347.



Horizontal projection of a pendant of black  
 polished slate & banded of Josephson  
 fragment Ohio - Scraper found in Sandusky  
 Co. O - Length 5 inches - breadth at middle  
 1.3 inches - thickness .2 - " at ends 1.4 x 1.60  
 tapering fl. & conc. towards the ends about 1/2 the  
 thickness at middle -  
 bore a a' tapering - side B a bore 1/2 of the  
 way through - side A a little & flange and  
 not much to be -  
 Chevron markings at right end of a &  
 oblique - also at left end of B - more  
 unaccountable ornamentation -

Fig. 1 (Murphy) Page from Charles Whittlesey's papers describing an engraved pendant.